

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 SS-15 DODE-00 AGR-20

ABF-01 IGA-02 H-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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TAGS: SNAR, AF, UN, NL

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM AFGHANISTAN

REFS: A. STATE 137512

B. STATE 136969

C. THE HAGUE 2772

1. SUMMARY: MFA (EVERTS) SAID FINAL POSITION ON GON PARTICIPATION IN JULY 24-25 MEETING NOT MADE BUT WORKING LEVEL RECOMMENDATION IS THAT GON NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE. REASONING IS THAT UNCERTAINTY WITHIN NEW GOVERNMENT OVER CONTINUING CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDSC PREVENTS GON FROM MAKING ANY STATEMENT WHATSOEVER AND GON DELEGATION IN GENEVA CAN RECEIVE COMPLETE BRIEFING ON MEETING FROM AMB. SCHURMANN. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO DUTCH PARTICIPATION, EVEN IF GON REPRESENTATIVE IS UNINSTRUCTED AND SAYS NOTHING. END SUMMARY.

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2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED UPCOMING GENEVA MEETING ON NARCOTICS

CONTROL PROGRAM AFGHANISTAN WITH EVERTS (MFA) ON JULY 16. EMBOFF REVIEWED US THOUGHTS ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROGRAM AS PRESENTED REF B. MFA SAID MOST OF DECISION-MAKERS IN IO DIVISION EITHER ON HOLIDAY OR IN GENEVA FOR ECOSOC. HE HAS CABLED GENEVA RE DUTCH PARTICIPATION AND EXPECTS REPLY WEDNESDAY, JULY 18. EVERTS SAID WORKING LEVEL'S RECOMMENDATION IS THAT GON NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA MEETING. RECOMMENDATION BASED ON: (A) UNCERTAINTY GON WILL CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO UNFDAC, (B) UNCERTAINTY WHETHER MFA WILL ASSUME CONTRIBUTION IF HEALTH MINISTRY CEASES ITS SUPPORT, AND (C) DOUBTS ON APPROPRIATENESS OF THIS TYPE OF PROJECT GIVEN DUTCH COMMITMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO "CONCENTRATION COUNTRIES".

3. EVERTS STATED THAT IF HEALTH MINISTRY DECIDES TO END ITS CONTRIBUTION (SOMETHING HE SUSPECTS IS ALMOST CERTAIN BECAUSE OF HEALTH MINISTRY NARCOTICS SPECIALIST SAMSOM'S OPPOSITION TO FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS) AND IF MFA TAKES OVER THERE IS STILL A QUESTION WHETHER CONTRIBUTION WILL GO DIRECTLY TO FUND OR RATHER TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN. EVERTS EMPHASIZED THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISENCHANTMENT WITHIN GON ABOUT UNFDAC. THERE WAS GENERAL BELIEF FUND HAD "SQUANDERED" ITS MONEY ON OVERHEAD AND WAS NOW CASTING ABOUT FOR PROJECTS. GON SUSPECTED THIS PROJECT WOULD ONLY BE FIRST OF MANY AND CONSIDERS IT A MEANS OF SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS OUTSIDE NORMAL CHANNELS.

4. EVERTS THEN REHEARSED UNCERTAINTY WITHIN DUTCH GOVERNMENT ON GENERAL DRUG POLICY. HE APPRECIATED GON WAS "ODD MAN OUT" ON DRUG PROBLEM IN EUROPE AND WAS PERCEIVED AS SUCH BY USG. DIFFICULTY WAS THAT NEW GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT HAD YET TO COME TO GRIPS WITH GENERAL NARCOTICS POLICY. HE EXPECTS DEBATE ON BAAN REPORT (DELAYED OVER A YEAR) IN FALL TO CLARIFY GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS POLICY, BOTH IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPHERES.

5. EVERTS, WHO HAD BEEN RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBILITIES INHERENT IN DEVELOPMENT AID APPROACH DURING LAST MEETING WITH EMBOFF, WAS NOW RATHER DEUBIOUS. HE SAID AFGHANISTAN WAS "COVERED" BY PRC, SOVS AND USG. GON HAS VERY LIMITED FUNDS AND CANNOT SPREAD THEM TOO THINLY. NOTING THAT US PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN FELL PRIMARILY IN AREAS WHERE US ALREADY HAD ONGOING PROGRAMS, EVERTS SAID IF GON DID PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM LIKE THIS, IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SOME

OTHER LOCUS (E.G. THAILAND WHERE GON WAS MORE EQUIPPED TO BE HELPFUL). ADVERTING TO PHILOSOPHY BEHIND UNFDAC, EVERTS NOTED THAT WHILE GON HAD BEEN ONE OF FIRST CONTRIBUTORS, THIS HAD BEEN PRIMARILY TO HELP OUT SCHURMANN, A DUTCHMAN, IN HIS FUND-RAISING EFFORTS.

6. EMBOFF EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT AT DIRECTION DUTCH DECISION OR LACK OF SAME SEEMED TO BE TAKING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF AFGHANISTAN PROGRAM WAS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT 200 TONS OF ILLICIT OPIUM BEING PRODUCED IN AFGHANISTAN EACH YEAR, MOST OF WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY FINDS ITS WAY INTO THE ILLICIT DRUG MARKET. EMBOFF NOTED THREE RECENT DEATHS IN AMSTERDAM FROM OVERDOSES OF HEROIN AND SAID HE FELT SURE GON CONSIDERED THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM. EMBOFF SAID THAT WHILE THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION OR APPROACH ON SOFT DRUGS THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT ANYWHERE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE HAD TO BE DONE TO CUT OFF SUPPLY OF OPIATE-BASED HARD DRUGS. EMBOFF SAID US MIGHT BE MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROACHES AT HIGHER LEVEL WITHIN THE MINISTRY AND SUGGESTED SUBJECT WOULD BE RAISED IN COURSE OF AMB. HANDLEY'S AND DAVIES' CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. EVERTS, WHO SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED US CONCERN, SAID PROBLEM WAS THAT GON ITSELF IN PROCESS OF MAKING UP ITS MIND. HE DOUBTED HIGHER LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN PUSHING GON IN A PARTICULAR DIRECTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF DID NOT KNOW WHAT DIRECTION IT WANTED TO TAKE.

7. COMMENT: EVERTS' POSITION WAS FORESHADOWED IN OUR PREVIOUS MEETING WITH HIM, JUNE 21 (REF C). FROM TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS, IT SEEMS CLEAR GON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT AFGHANISTAN PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS CHECKERED HISTORY OF UNFDAC. IT IS ALSO DISTURBED BY CONFUSION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS. WE ALSO SUSPECT THERE ELEMENT OF PIQUE IN GON POSITION RESULTING FROM RECENT US OPPOSITION TO DUTCH SCHEME FOR UNDP SUPPORT OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PERHAPS EVEN LINGERING RESENTMENT ABOUT ALLEGED HARD-LINE WE TOOK ON ASSESSMENT ISSUE. WHILE GON MAY INDEED BE CONSIDERING ITS BASIC DRUG POLICY, WE SEE NO RPT NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE AT LEAST REPRESENTED IN GENEVA MEETING EVEN THOUGH DUTCH REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMMENT. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT AMBASSADOR HANDLEY AND DEP ASST SEC DAVIES IN COURSE THEIR DISCUSSIONS

EMPHASIZE TO THE DUTCH IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GENEVA
MEETING AND AFGHANISTAN PROGRAM.
TANGUY

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